



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

A. PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

April 26, 2021

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Co-Chair
Representative Michael Brennan, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 1318 An Act To Increase High School Graduation Rates for Students Experiencing Educational Disruption aims to increase the graduation rates for children who have experienced homelessness, been involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system, immigrated to the United States (US) and have spent less than three years in a US school, or from migrant families.

The Department supports the intent of the bill and can attest to the statewide efforts currently underway by educational and community leaders to ensure Maine's most vulnerable students are supported to pursue their dreams. This bill's proposed policy changes will further support their ongoing work and clarify systems of supports available to students. During the 129th Legislative session, in partnership with New Beginnings, the Department engaged in conversations regarding how LD 1318 could offer an important opportunity to extend graduation supports to students experiencing education disruption.

Graduation Rates and Student Counts by Student Group

Publicly Funded Student Group	PK-12 Student Count	Assumed Class of 2021 Student Count	Assumed Class of 2022 Student Count	Assumed Class of 2023 Student Count	Class of 2019 Graduation Rate
	As of 10/1/2020	As of 10/1/2020	As of 10/1/2020	As of 10/1/2020	(4 year cohort)
Migrant (enrolled in Maine schools)	131	12	9	9	81.82%
Homeless	1335	216	133	117	61.96%
Foster	1021	48	44	56	47.56%
EL Students	5339	348	314	345	79.84%
Immigrant	1194	80	88	85	N/A
Total Students w/ 1 or more groupings	7696	617	491	500	N/A

The current process to apply for the Maine DOE diploma is as follows:

Step #1: Establish eligibility to apply for the diploma by completing the pre-qualification questionnaire.

https://mainedoe.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6J8Q1MW359na0Ci

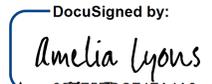
Step #2: Fill out the application. https://mainedoe.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eEvOkj7vIZLYDBP

Step #3: Complete the diploma requirements.

Step #4: Award the diploma

This bill will allow educational and community leaders to provide additional supports for Maine's most vulnerable students, should it be needed as graduation approaches. The Department will be available for the work session for LD 1318.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Amelia Lyons

Consultant for Migratory and Highly Mobile Students

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